

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office action mailed on April 20, 2004. Claims 1-62 were pending and were rejected in that action. The applicant has amended claim 1, canceled claims 2-62 and added new claims 63-87. Amended claim 1 and new claims 63-87 are all well supported by the original specification and figures, which have not been amended. Claims 1 and 63-87 are not new matter.

For example, considering new independent claim 63, aspects of one illustrative embodiment of the claimed computer-implemented method for evaluating image quality is depicted, for example, in figure 4, and described in the specification relating to figure 4, as one illustrative example among other descriptive matter in the specification and figures that supports claim 63. As a further specific example, illustrative aspects of the steps of claim 63 of obtaining a raw scan image, and selecting at least one image portion from the raw scan image, are described on pages 21-22 of the specification, for example. As another specific example, illustrative aspects of the subject matter of claim 67, of preprocessing the raw scan image by generating a monochrome image, are described on pages 22-23 of the specification. As yet another specific example, illustrative aspects of the element of claim 63 of generating a collection of slope-oriented data that corresponds to said at least one image portion of the raw scan image, are described at length in one illustrative passage beginning on page 26 of the specification. These illustrative examples begin to provide an indication of how claims 63-87 are not new matter, but are well supported by the specification and the figures of the original application.

The applicant hereby respectfully requests that the Office consider and allow claims 1 and 63-87.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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